



IN FROM THAILAND: CBS correspondent *Murray Fromson*, until recently based in Bangkok, talks with a questioner following his Homecoming Forum stint at the Club. About Viet Nam, Fromson asked, "We've killed a lot of enemy troops and we've shed a lot of blood, but with what result?" (Photo by Sibby Christensen)

Viet Nam Is 'Series Of Blurry Images,' Declares Fromson

By MORT STARK

The chief United States illusion about Viet Nam is that a political solution to that tormented country's problems can be imposed from the outside. The reason the US entertains this and other misconceptions about Viet Nam is that we see the country not as it really is but as "a series of blurry images."

The "words don't match the picture" because of a tendency to exaggeration by official spokesmen. As a result, "Viet Nam may be the best example we have of verbal overkill."

These were among the opinions expressed by *Murray Fromson*, veteran Asia correspondent for CBS-TV, at a Homecoming Forum luncheon held in his honor at the Clubhouse Jan. 13.

Fromson, with his wife Dody and two small children, has just returned from Bangkok, where he was based for the past three years. He has been reassigned to the CBS Chicago bureau.

It is true that in Viet Nam "we've killed a lot of enemy troops and we've shed a lot of blood, but with what result?" he asked.

Reasons Obscured

The reasons why we are doing what we are doing in Viet Nam, Fromson suggested, are lost as a result of a "statistical syndrome". This is expressed in communiques which tell "how many sorties we made today, how many bodies we counted, how many bags of cement we loaded, how many refugees we fed." And again he asked the rhetorical question: "With what result?"

As an example he cited a recent US statement that 13 million people in South Viet Nam now live in secure areas. This optimistic appraisal was based on what

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US CAN, SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL, AUTHORS TELL OPC DINNER GROUP

By DAVID RESNICK

Israel is "the only democracy in the Middle East and the only friend the United States has in that area," said *Frank Gervasi*, OPC Vice President and author of the recently published *The Case For Israel*, speaking at a dinner meeting at the Clubhouse last week.

"As a non-Jew, I have a feeling of guilt because we and other countries kept our doors closed and did not do enough to save Jewish lives from Hitler immediately before and during World War II," Gervasi remarked. "Israel admitted the survivors and deserves our support."

Dr. Ruth Gruber, author of five books on Israel including her most recent, *Israel on the Seventh Day*, shared the

program with Gervasi and joined him in stating that every Arab Government is tolerating and encouraging the activities of terrorists who invade Israel to kill and to disrupt the country.

Russian Presence

Touching on the Soviet Union's efforts to persuade the United States to join it in "imposing" a Middle East settlement by the big powers, which would make permanent and legitimate the Russian presence in the area, Dr. Gruber quoted Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Dayan as saying to her: "Tell your country to take care of the Russians and we'll take care of the hundred million Arabs."

Responding to one of the questions
(See page 4)

World-Wide Ticker

BOB HARTMANN JOINS REP. FORD'S STAFF

By JESSIE STEARNS

WASHINGTON — **Robert T. Hartmann** has been named legislative assistant to Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Minority Leader of the US House of Representatives.

Hartmann was assistant to Ford, Permanent Chairman of the 1968 Republican National Convention. Since 1965 he has served as editor for the House Republican Conference, and is continuing in an advisory capacity. From 1954 to 1963, he was Washington Bureau Chief of Los Angeles Times; and in 1963-64, Rome Bureau Chief of North American Regional Information Adviser for UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

* * *

"The American Voter-1968" by **Helen Zotos Farrington** for US Department of Commerce was used by Commerce Department in a brochure to promote their Sunday feature articles.

* * *

John W. (Pat) Heffernan, Washington Bureau Chief, Reuters, shattered a long-time tradition of the National Press Club by being elected President.

It took a Congressional bill to remove the restriction of a foreigner being president of the club. He has already shattered another tradition by holding the Inaugural dinner on a Friday night instead of Saturday night.

* * *

Heffernan succeeds Allan Cromley. Other officers are Michael Hudoba, vice president; Robert A. Alden, secretary; Felix Belair, treasurer, Kenneth Scheibel, financial secretary; and new Board members — Stan Jennings, National Geographic, L. Edgar Prina, Copley News Service, and Sam R. Fogg, UPI.

* * *

National Press Club presented a collection of tape recordings of world statesmen and other famous men who have addressed the club to the Library of Congress.

The collection included tapes of Richard M. Nixon, former President **Harry S. Truman**, and former Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

* * *

Fay Gillis Wells, president, American Women in Radio and Television, emceed the group's reception honoring new members of Congress including Sen. **Alan Cranston**, D-Calif.

* * *

The 14 new Senators and three new



GREETING THE NEW CONGRESS: The American Women in Radio and Television feted new members of Congress, and OPC's **Alan Cranston** — Democrat elected to the Senate from California — was one of the honorees. Cranston is greeted by two of his press colleagues, **Jessie Stearns** and **AWRT President Fay Wells** at the recent Washington reception.

members of the House of Representatives answered quick, tricky questions, some with a plumb, and others with dull comment at the Women's National Press Club annual Congressional dinner Jan. 7.

Sen. **Alan Cranston**, D-Calif., during his turn at the rostrum, quoted from a letter: "In California the oranges are on the ground and people are in the trees;" from Sam Goldwyn: "A man who goes to a psychiatrist needs to have his head examined;" and from Joe E. Lewis,

"Show me a man with both feet on the ground and I'll show you a man who can't put on his pants."

OPCers enjoying the fun were **Fay and Linton Wells**, **Ruth Hatch**, **Ruth Matthews**, **Helen Zotos Farrington**, **Virginia Kelly**, **Elsie Carper**, **Vera Glaser**, **Esther Van Wagoner Tufty**, **Julia Edwards**, **Ruth Hagy Brod** (from New York City), **Richard Coe**, **Alvadee Adams**, **Angele Gingras**, **Franc Shor**, and **Jessie Stearns**.

BIG SALAZAR STORY MAY NOT BE SO BIG

By BETTY WASON

LISBON — It now looks as if the Big Story from Portugal, the death of the dictator who ruled this country for 40 years, will not be such a momentous story after all when it comes. Salazar, clinging stubbornly to life, is now out of the hospital and back in his own villa, incapacitated to be sure, but not ready yet to be buried. Meantime, his successor, Dr. Marcello Caetano, has introduced just enough reforms to create hope that a better time is coming.

The changes are subtle but evident. When bus workers decided to strike recently (in a country where all strikes are illegal and subject to imprisonment), they went to work as usual — but refused to take any money from passengers. After three days, they won part at least of the raise they requested.

Otherwise, life proceeds as quietly as usual in a country noted for its tranquility. Famous visitors come and go,

most of them here only for the sunshine which now in January is illusive, this being the rainy season. As great a stir has been caused by the presence of James Michener, here on an assignment for Reader's Digest, as anyone, because Michener has been gracious enough to speak before many different groups. At a recent "open house" at the Gremio Literario, the Lisbon Literary Club, he pleased Portuguese listeners by telling them the writer was more revered in Portugal than in the United States, a conclusion he reached after noting the great number of statues in public places erected in honor of Portugal's illustrious men of letters of times past.

The small group of regular correspondents stationed here was entertained at Christmastime at the home of Stephan Baldanza, American press attache, a doubly welcome invitation because Lisbon has no foreign press club so such get-togethers are few and far between.

Retaliatory Move Against Pravda Man Taken by Canada

The Canadian Government has taken retaliatory action against the Pravda correspondent in Ottawa because of restrictions imposed by the Soviet government on Aaron Einfrank, Toronto Telegram Moscow bureau chief.

Soviet displeasure with Einfrank's reports on intellectual unrest in the USSR led him to being confined to a 25-mile radius from the center of Moscow. His requests to travel outside this limit were rejected by the press department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The Canadian government move, reported by The Telegram, was a refusal to allow Pravda Ottawa correspondent Konstantin Geivandov to travel to Montreal to attend a conference on the Viet Nam war. A Canadian government statement issued in Ottawa said that Geivandov's confinement to the city limits of Ottawa was due to Einfrank's being refused permission to "visit Russian cities which are known to be open with Western journalists."

Last summer Canadian Ambassador Robert Ford protested to the Soviet Foreign Ministry about the close police surveillance being imposed on Einfrank in Moscow. The surveillance was relaxed.

AP STRIKE ENDS

Striking members of the Wire Service Guild returned to work Jan. 17 at the AP after voting to accept a three-year contract offer.

The union had been on strike for eight days. Members of the union bargaining committee had recommended rejection of the management proposal.

Northeast Asia: Coming Crises

Tues., Jan. 28 — Homecoming Forum for Richard Halloran, Northeast Asia correspondent for The Washington Post. "Northeast Asia: The Coming Conflict." Cocktails 6:30 p.m.; dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

Recently returned from a two-year tour in Tokyo as Northeast Asia correspondent for The Washington Post, Halloran will provide new insights into serious emerging crises which he believes will face the nation in the next few years.

During his tour of duty in Tokyo Halloran devoted special attention to Korea, covering the unknown "Porous War" and the Pueblo crisis. He has followed the Pueblo situation closely and will provide a closer look at that critical phase of foreign affairs.

Halloran also has just recently completed a book, tentatively titled *Japan—Images and Realities*, which will be published this fall. Liz Weissblatt is the producer of the event.

Tues., Feb. 18 — Edward R. Murrow World Affairs Forum. General Lewis W. Walt, Assistant Commandant US Marine Corps. Cocktails 12:00 noon; luncheon 12:30. \$5.00.

Thurs., Feb. 20 — Regional Dinner. Bahamas Night. Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

Fri., Feb. 21 — Anzio Correspondents Reunion. Cocktails 6:30 p.m.; dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

Book Night - Critique of TV, Papers

Wed., Feb. 26 — Book Night. Robert Montgomery and John Tebbel will be present to speak about their new books: "Open Letter from a Television Viewer" and "Open Letter to Newspaper Readers." Cocktails 6:30 p.m.; dinner 7:30. \$6.00.

A vocal critic of the abuses of network television as regards both policy and programing, Robert Montgomery, who has appeared on the subject before committees of Congress, speaks his mind and states clearly what should be done to make the medium live up to its potential.

John Tebbel, Professor of Journalism at NYU and a former newspaperman, author and editor, is a regular contributor to the Communications section of the Saturday Review. Acknowledging that the press today is not wholly beyond criticism, Tebbel cites the unimpassioned reporting and the general aim of most papers, which is to print as much news as possible as accurately as possible, and the currently fashionable trend of the public on all levels to assail the press.

All reservations not cancelled 24 hours in advance will be charged to members accounts.



COVERING CEREMONY: AP Saigon Bureau chief George MacArthur talks with Ninth Division soldier following award ceremony at Dong Tam, South Viet Nam. Background left is John Wilhelm, Time, and Sol Sanders, USN & WR, background right.

(Photos by Dick Rosenbaum)



AT DONG TAM: Author military historian Ed Hymoff talks with Ninth Division PIO Major Tom King at Dong Tam headquarters of the "Old Reliables." Behind left is ABC's Craig Spence. Division hosted Saigon bureau chiefs for awards ceremony and lunch at new senior officer's mess. Host was Major General Julian Ewell.

BULLETIN

Chairman: Joseph Harrow
Managing Editor: Sibby Christensen

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GRUBER: "Adoption of the Security Council resolution lets the Arabs know that they can get away with it when their terrorists attack Israel."

ISRAEL

(From page 1)

from the audience, "Do you think the United States would abandon Israel in a showdown?" Dr. Gruber replied that she is confident this country would support Israel because it is to our self-interest not to permit the Russians to be in control in the Middle East.

Both Gervasi and Dr. Gruber commented on the United Nations Security Council's resolution which condemned Israel for its raid on the Beirut airport, with no loss of life, but disregarded the attack on an El Al airplane in the Athens airport in which one passenger was killed and 42 others narrowly escaped death.

"Although many Americans, including Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, denounced the Athens airport incident, The New York Times did not see fit to publish an editorial denouncing it," Gervasi said.

"Israel doesn't have a chance at the United Nations because there are 14 Arab countries joined by the Soviet Union and its bloc of East European countries, plus the Soviet veto power," Gervasi emphasized.

"Everybody screams when Israel retaliates," said Dr. Gruber. "Adoption of the Security Council resolution lets the Arabs know that they can get away with it when their terrorists attack Israel."

What deGaulle's Action Will Bring

Discussing the action of President de Gaulle in decreeing a total embargo on all shipment of French arms to Israel,



GERVASI: The Palestinians and Israelis "could settle their problems if left alone."
(Photos by Richard E. Laird)

Dr. Gruber described how Israel is attempting to become self sufficient by building up its own munitions industry and by establishing this month a jet engine plant in the town of Beit She-mesh. The action of de Gaulle will fail and only spur on Israel, just as the Arab boycott failed and resulted in greater exports by Israel, she predicted.

Responding to a question about the Arab refugees, Gervasi said that the Arab countries are not making any effort to absorb refugees but doing everything possible to keep them as refugees for political pawns, in contrast to the 575,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries who have been admitted to Israel.

Telling of his visits to the Arab refugee camps maintained by the UN, Gervasi said he observed pictures of Arabs slaughtering Jews, drawn by school children in art classes. He cited this as part of the deliberate policy of the Arabs to perpetuate anti-Israel feeling among the refugee children.

"On the west bank, the majority of Palestinians and the Israelis manage to get along well," he said. "They could settle their problems if left alone."

OPC First Vice President Mary Hornaday presided, and Treasurer James H. Sheldon handled the question and answer period. Dorothy Omansky produced the event, which brought out one of the largest dinner attendances of the season — more than a hundred members and guests.

Fromson (From page 1)

Fromson called the "quick-fix pacification program". This is a special drive started in November and which will continue until the anniversary of last year's Tet offensive next month. The aim of the pacification drive is "to break the back of the Viet Cong leadership in rural areas" by seizing VC agents.

Although the aim sounds plausible enough, "the hang-up is our intelligence isn't good enough and we don't have enough jails to hold all the captives." As a result, within six months the VC agents will have been released and the efforts will have been all for naught.

But even beyond the efficacy of our military efforts, Fromson expressed the flat opinion that "the political outcome is beyond our influence or control." He also expressed doubt that the Paris peace conference would reach any political settlements.

"Those who suggest that we pull out and let the Vietnamese make their own accommodations are probably nearest to the right answer," he said.

That the North and South Vietnamese can work out ways to live together would appear to be supported by an example given by Fromson. It is a large rural irrigation project in South Viet Nam — "Saigon works one end, the VC the other end." Obviously, he added, "there is a

tacit understanding not to shoot each other because both sides recognize that the project serves the needs of the people."

Settlement Out of Camera Range

If we will only leave them alone the Vietnamese will find a way to work out their destiny "the political settlement will have to be reached by the Vietnamese away from the glare of publicity, out of the range of the cameras," the TV correspondent said.

If Viet Nam has proved that the US cannot impose its will on that country, Fromson suggested that it has also shown that "the concept of American omnipotence is outdated." Based on the lessons of Viet Nam, he concluded that the US "should stay out of small countries." He gave three criteria to determine whether the US should in future get involved in foreign countries: If the population is large enough; if the location is strategically important to us; or if its natural resources are crucial to our own welfare.

Fromson was introduced by Howard Kany, OPC Program Council chairman. Also at the head table were Bob Little, foreign editor of CBS News, and Liz Weissblatt, chairman of the Homecoming Forums.

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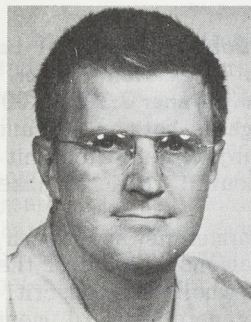
PEOPLE & PLACES

By BETTY ETTER

ON THE GO: Back from a 10-week US Air Force mission across the Pacific (Hawaii, Wake Island, Guam, Philippines, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan and Alaska), **Hugh Gile Swofford** picked up guest cards at the Foreign Correspondents' Clubs in Manila, Hong Kong and Tokyo and reports a "friendly, helpful reception that indicates OPC's exchange agreements are in fine working order." . . . **Martin Gershen**, NY bureau chief of the Newark Star-Ledger and author of the "Our Man in Manhattan" column, off to the Czech border to cover the NATO war games in West Germany. Gershen is recently back from Biafra, where he posed as a crew member (a loadmaster) aboard a mercy plane to get into that country.

CHECKING IN: **Murray Fromson** from Thailand.

NEW POSTS: **Raoul Blumberg**, recently retired as assistant to the publisher of The Washington Post and as vice-president and general manager of TV Publications, Inc., elected vice president of the Capitol Institute of Technology, a non-profit, degree-grant-



LO BELLO:
New book
on Vatican
published.

ing technical college . . . **Myron Kandel** resigned as editor and president of the NY Law Journal to return to the financial field with several publications of his own. The first, just out, is the "Wall Street Letter," a weekly trade newsletter for the securities industry . . .

Arthur M. Merims appointed to the newly created position of NY PR manager of Motorola, Inc., to serve as liaison between Motorola's six divisions and NY news media. His office will be at 12 East 41st Street, Room 808.

ARTICLES: **Don Munson's** "The Influential Onion" in House Beautiful for February.

BOOKS: "Tomorrow's Church: Catholic Evangelical Reformed" by **Peter Day**, out in paperback via Seabury Press . . . "The Vatican Empire" by **Nino LoBello** off the Trident presses. For many years stationed in Rome and now in Vienna, LoBello is now back in the US to help promote the book, which is based on several years of research on the financial "empire" of the Vatican.

RADIO & TV: **Harrison Salisbury** on the Martha Deane Show (WOR) Jan. 23 to discuss his new book, "The 900 Days: the Siege of Leningrad." . . . A letter from **Rhea Clyman** was aired on WQXR Jan. 16 in answer to one of the station's broadcast Times editorials . . . **Victor Lasky**, author of "JFK, the Man and the Myth," on Bill Mazer's WOR radio show Jan. 16.

SPEAKERS: **John Rich**, NBC news chief in the Far East, was one of a panel of NBC correspondents who discussed

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the "World of President Nixon" at Foreign Policy Association luncheon Jan. 10. . . **Richard Thomas** addressed recent meeting of the Modern Language Association, in convention at the NY Hilton, on techniques of speed-teaching written and spoken French . . . **Sylvia Taylor** guest speaker at a luncheon of the NY Kiwanis Club Jan. 22. Her subject: the UN . . . **Leo Cherne**, chairman of the International Rescue Committee presenting an award on Feb. 24 to General Lucius Clay at the 1969 Freedom Award dinner.

HONORS: **Sydney H. Eiges**, public information vice president of NBC, guest of honor at Syracuse U's annual Benchmark luncheon, Jan. 21.

EXHIBIT: Exhibit of photos by **Gertrude Samuels** on exhibit for three weeks beginning Jan. 28, at the Theodor Herzl Institute, 515 Park Avenue, NY. Taken while she was covering the Six Day War in Israel, the more than 50 photos are on display to coincide with the publication of her book, "The Secret of Gonen" (Avon).

MINI-PAPER: The Little Newspaper, an "independent American fortnightly," being published by a group of former reporters and editors of the late NY Herald Tribune, including **Seymour Freidin**.

OPC PLAQUE SET FOR LONDON CHURCH

A plaque honoring OPC correspondents who died in line of duty will be dedicated this April in the Church of St. Bride, Fleet Street, London E.C. 4.

St. Bride, popularly known as "the parish church of the press," dates back to 1375 A.D. When the seventh edition of the church, built by Sir Christopher Wren, was devastated by enemy bombs in 1940, funds were raised for a new building by publishers, reporters and journalists of Fleet Street. The eighth and present building was dedicated in 1957.

The OPC plaque will be dedicated by Admiral Waldemar F.A. Wendt, Commander-in-chief of US Naval Forces in Europe, following a memorial service. The Rev. Dewi Morgan, Rector of St. Bride's, will conduct the service, to which all resident OPC members will be invited.

The suggestion for installing a plaque was made to the OPC Board by Board Member **Madeline D. Ross**, after she returned from a London trip last July. After gaining acceptance from the Board and from Rev. Morgan, she raised funds from Club members to pay for the plaque and to make a cash contribution to the church.

The choice of Wendt, the senior US American military officer in England, was made since so many of the correspondents being honored died under combat conditions. Wendt, a four-star admiral, has overall responsibility for the US Navy in Europe, including the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Russell S. Anderson, Senior Vice-President - International of McGraw-Hill publications, represents the Club for dedication arrangements in London.

Tentative date for the ceremonies is 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

LAST CALL FOR 1969 OPC AWARDS

Next week, Feb. 1, is deadline for entry forms for the 1969 OPC Awards recognizing excellence in reporting from abroad.

A little more than a week later - Feb. 10 - supporting material and exhibits must be in the hands of the judges.

Awards Committee Chairman **Whit Burnett** urged bosses and colleagues of potential nominees to observe these deadlines to assure their entries being processed in time for judging.

Entry forms and detailed information may be obtained by contacting **Beth Fine** at the Club.

The awards, covering 17 categories, will be made at the OPC Annual Awards Dinner April 18 at the Waldorf Astoria.